

Claims

1. A method comprising the step of:
- a) generating a display of privilege state data in a three-dimensional view.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the privilege state data include graphical symbols indicating at least "on" and "off" states.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the privilege state data includes graphical symbols indicating "on", "inherited on", "public on", "off", "not set", and "disabled" states.
4. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the display includes privilege labels, object labels, and user labels generated based on privilege data, object data, and user data, respectively, the privilege labels, object labels, and user labels arranged along respective axes of the three-dimensional view.
5. A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the privilege state data are displayed in a plurality of cells arranged in association with respective privilege labels, object labels, and user labels.
6. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the cells are displayed in association with privilege labels, object labels, and user labels, the privilege labels identifying at least one privilege, the object labels identifying at least one object associated with the privilege, and the user labels identifying at least one user or group of users using the object in the network system.
7. A method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the privilege labels, the object labels, and the user labels are arranged along respective transverse axes in the three-dimension view.
8. A method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the privilege labels identifies data access, data view, and data flow privileges to access or transfer data pertaining to the object within or without the network system.
9. A method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the privilege labels identifies data access privileges.

10. A method as claimed in claim 9 wherein the data access privileges include the capabilities to read, write, create, and delete data for an object stored in a database accessible by the network system.

11. A method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the object labels identifies data for at least one object stored in a database accessible by the network system.

12. A method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the privilege labels identifies view privileges including a privilege to create a view of privilege state data for objects.

13. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the user labels identifies at least one user group.

14. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the user labels identifies at least one user.

15. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the privilege state data indicates privilege states of at least one user or user group with respect to objects accessible in a network system.

16. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the privilege state data indicates privilege states of at least one user or user group with respect to data objects stored in a data storage unit.

17. A method comprising the steps of:

a) on a user interface of a terminal device generating a display of privilege state data in an array of cells in a three-dimensional view on a terminal device, the privilege state data of the cells displayed in correspondence with privilege labels, object labels, and user labels arranged along respective transverse axes of the three-dimensional view.

18. A method as claimed in claim 17 wherein the privilege labels correspond to respective privilege data, the object labels correspond to respective object data, and the user data correspond to respective user data, further comprising the steps of:

b) with the user interface of the terminal device, inputting privilege state data into at least one cell of the array using at least one privilege label, object label, and user label;

c) determining the privilege data, object data, and user data corresponding to the cell in which the privilege state data is input in the step (b);

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23. A method as claimed in claim 18 wherein the user data identifies dependencies between first and second object data related by predetermined dependency data, the method further comprising the steps of:

f) determining whether the second object data inherits privilege state data from the first object data, based on the predetermined dependency data; and

g) if the determination in the step (f) establishes that the second object data inherits privilege state data from the first object data, storing the privilege state data input in the step (b) in correspondence with the user data for the second entity and the object data and privilege data for which the privilege state data was input in the step (b).

24. A method as claimed in claim 18 wherein the user data identifies dependencies between first and second privilege data related by predetermined dependency data, the method further comprising the steps of:

f) determining whether the second privilege data inherits privilege state data from the first privilege data, based on the predetermined dependency data; and

g) if the determination in the step (f) establishes that the second privilege data inherits privilege state data from the first privilege data, storing the privilege state data input in the step (b) in correspondence with the user data for the second entity and the object data and privilege data for which the privilege state data was input in the step (b).

25. A network system comprising:

at least one terminal device having a user interface generating a display of privilege state symbols in an array of cells in a three-dimensional view, the cells displayed in correspondence with privilege labels, object labels, and user labels arranged along respective transverse axes of the three-dimensional view;

a data storage unit coupled to the terminal device, the data storage unit storing corresponding privilege data, object data, user data, and privilege state data, the privilege labels generated based on privilege data, the object labels generated based on respective object data, the user labels generated based on respective user labels, and the privilege state symbols generated based on the privilege state symbols; and

at least one server coupled to the terminal device and the data storage unit, the server transmitting privilege data, object data, user data, and privilege state data between the terminal device and the data storage unit.

26. A network system as claimed in claim 25 wherein the display is generated on the user interface by an application program running on the terminal device, the application program including an application program interface to convert privilege state data, privilege data, object data, user data, into privilege state symbols, privilege labels, object labels, and user labels, respectively, for the three-dimensional view for the display on the user interface of the terminal device.

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